

Native Village of Eyak
110 Nicholoff Way
P.O. Box 1388
Cordova, Alaska 99574-1388
P (907) 424-7738 * F (907) 424-7739
www.eyak-nsn.gov



10,000 years in our Traditional Homeland, Prince William Sound, the Copper River Delta, and the Gulf of Alaska

Record Copy

Support RC109, Proposal 69
John C. Whissel
Native Village of Eyak

The Native Village of Eyak has long supported and participated in the efforts between ADFG and local stakeholders to re-establish a Tanner crab fishery in Prince William Sound.

RC 109 adequately modifies Proposal 75 in such a way that there is a reasonable likelihood of prosecuting a fishery, and so we support RC109 in that it makes good regulatory progress.

We would like to note one imperfection resulting in harvest limits being likely lower than necessary, and thresholds higher. It is the Tribe's ongoing position that bottom-trawls are a poor means of quantitatively sampling Tanner crab because they are degradative to the habitat and generally underestimate the population, particularly mature males, due to their avoidance behaviors. We acknowledge that bottom trawls are currently our only, and therefore our best means of population assessment, and the data they provide inform the above. It is our strong hope that better population assessment tools can be developed to provide a harvest opportunity more in-line with what may be a larger population than is currently being estimated.

It is similarly important to approve Proposal 69 to allow the prosecution of Commissioner's Permit fisheries if thresholds are not met as determined by bottom-trawl data.